

Burning Issues – Final Assignment Suggestions

For the Burning Issues problem you have several options to choose from. Below are some suggestions; however, there is some flexibility with regard to the final product you will create. If you have another idea about ways you would like to communicate about or interact with this issue feel free to propose it. The only unifying feature for all final products is that they address the issue of the ecological/environmental/conservation effects of urban sprawl into and around Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF). You must also connect this to the larger human overpopulation problem we have been exploring. Please consult the Burning Issues Final Assignment Grading Rubric which lays out the important characteristics of your work regardless of the assignment or media format you choose. Below are some ideas for the final assignment:

- **Write an expose style newspaper or magazine.** The focus of the article should be to educate the general citizenry, citizen groups and local politicians about this issue. The article should also present, defend or critique potential solutions related to either promoting or curbing sprawl up to and around FMNF. Here is an example of this kind of article (an expose) in a recent issue of the Charleston Post & Courier. If you choose this assignment you may work with your teammates to develop a general outline of the content and organization of your article; however, each person must write their own final article. Your article does not need to have parenthetical citations but should properly refer to research resources in the article when important concepts or evidence are being used to support an idea or make an argument. A bibliography of research resources is required at the end of the article for your editor (that's your instructor) to review. There are no page length limits or requirements for this assignment. Your focus (with regard to length) should be to clearly, comprehensively and concisely as possible "cover" the issue. However, consider the likely attention span of your reader in relation to the typical length of these kinds of articles (see examples).
- **Create a conservation web site/page.** The focus of the web site should be to educate and expose the general citizenry, citizen groups and local politicians to this issue. The web site should also present, defend or critique potential solutions related to either promoting or curbing sprawl up to and around FMNF. Here is an example of this kind of web site like this at the [Coastal Conservation League](#) related to preserving the Angel Oak on Johns Island. Although your web site will have an even greater emphasis on ecological education, and recommendations, the example presents you with an example of the formatting and style of this kind of site. Your web site must have internal links or linked citations to important research resources you use to develop your site or to provide more information to your audience. **However (and this is important)** you CANNOT simply link to another site to educate your audience about this issue, the ecological concepts involved. You must first explain these important ecological ideas in your own words and their connections to the larger issue. Use internal links provide your audience with sources to seek more detailed information, or as a way of citing important concepts/information/ideas/evidence you are using to educate your audience, make your argument or develop/defend proposed recommendations. There must also be something on the site which promotes/informs citizen action on this issue. If you choose this assignment you may work with your teammates to develop a general outline of the content and organization of your web page/site; however, each person must submit their own final web site.
- **Develop an informative yet creative/interesting video.** The focus of the video should be to alert your intended audience to this issue, educate them and propose recommendations. You can choose the intended audience (high school students, developers, local politicians, conservation-minded citizens, teachers...you decide!) The video should also present, defend or critique potential solutions related to either promoting or curbing sprawl up to and around FMNF, and should do so in a way that speaks directly to your intended audience. Your video should be a minimum of 5 minutes

in length, but no longer than 10 minutes. However (and this is important) you CANNOT simply include video/audio or animations that you get from another source to present your ideas. You must present/discuss these important ecological ideas and their connections to the larger issue yourselves. The end of your video must provide your audience with sources to seek more detailed information, or as a way of citing important concepts/information/ideas/evidence you are using to educate your audience, make your argument or develop/defend proposed recommendations. There must also be something in the video which promotes/informs audience action on this issue. There are a number of apps (Sphere, Splice, Screen Chomp) & programs (Windows Live Movie Maker) you can use to develop your video. Feel free to share others with your teammates. If you choose this assignment you may work with others to develop your video (each team will develop a single video). You may also work with another individual that is developing a web site to produce a video for their site.